



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes, Nov. 2010

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP SPY POND COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2, 2010 MEETING

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci. **Facilitator:** Steve Ricci **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 7, Town Hall Annex, First Floor.

Because no votes can be taken on Election Day, there was no formal approval of the October minutes, but no objections to the draft were raised.

Phragmites:

- Spraying was done on October 13. Frost is forecast for tonight, but the poison should have reached the roots by now. The dead stalks can be cut in about two months, i.e. after mid-December. The seedheads must be incinerated.
- Jane reported that the botanist who checked for the endangered sedge, but found none in the areas to be sprayed, cost \$150 and the spraying cost just under \$4000. There was about \$5000 in the phragmites fund, so there is money left for further control activities if needed.
- It was suggested that some letters to the *Arlington Advocate* about this project would increase visibility for the Spy Pond Committee. The Kelwyn Manor Association and the Boys and Girls Club director could be asked to write such letters.

Ideas for future projects:

- Warrant article asking for another appropriation for the waterbodies fund. (Due in January.)
- Speaker in March – perhaps someone from Mass. Fish & Wildlife if not Karsten Hartel.
- Helping the Arlington Land Trust with replanting on Elizabeth Island after the phragmites is gone (possibly spring 2012) and perhaps with a plant inventory.
- Making Spy Pond swimmable? This would be a long-term project; maybe the Kelwyn Manor Association would be interested in participating.
- The enduring sandbar problem. Steve offered an interesting, low-tech suggestion: the sand-bar could be reduced in size, though not removed, with shovels and muscle power, at least enough to keep the corner of the pond from being completely cut off. MassHighway could be asked to cooperate to the extent of building a cofferdam around the sandbar to allow the diggers to go deeper. But the question of how to remove the sand that is dug out and where to put it would need to be solved. Steve will talk to Gene Benson about this. Jane noted that we need a brief, “people-grabbing” sentence for the listing of Vision 2020 activities in the January 2011 census survey: “Planning for reducing the size of the 2-acre sandbar” might do.

Other business:

- Brad has received a stack of historical material from long-time resident Nancy Flynn, who was involved with a Spy Pond association that existed decades ago, and he has put together a timeline. The pond was treated with arsenic compounds to remove weeds as early as 1905 and as late as 1981. Copper sulfate was also used. The 10 hp limit for motorboats dates from the 1960s. The present Spy Pond Committee was started in the late 1990s.
- It was suggested that Nancy Flynn would make an interesting speaker, not just for this committee but for a more general audience.

- Betsy Leondar-Wright has written a letter to the *Arlington Advocate* to start a discussion about problems such as noise and erosion caused by boats going too fast, mostly the coaches of the Arlington/Belmont rowing team. Several people have replied, defending the boaters.